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**Kalamazoo Public Library
315 South Rose Street
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007**

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your kind invitation to speak at the Kalamazoo Public Library about the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. I am humbled by your most gracious request. I regret that my legislative duties in Washington, D.C., particularly in my role as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, prevent me from joining you. Please know that my thoughts are with you on this important occasion.

During the war, thousands of Japanese Americans were classified as enemy aliens and unjustly imprisoned by the United States. I am proud to have worked with the late Senator Spark M. Matsunaga to pass the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, a law that provided redress payments and acknowledged the fundamental injustice of the internment. It was a historic moment in our nation's history. We, as a nation, acknowledged that the incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II was unjust and unconstitutional.

I commend the Kalamazoo Public Library for preserving the story of the Japanese American experience during World War II. The story, filled with enduring themes of courage, honor, and patriotism, overcoming adversity, and an unwavering commitment to civil liberties and social justice, will serve as an inspiration to all Americans. It is a story that strengthens our democratic ideals.

I wish to express my appreciation to the Kalamazoo Public Library for hosting such an important event. You have my best wishes for a successful event.

Aloha,



DANIEL K. INOUE
United States Senator

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